DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work included in the Ph.D. thesis entitled "Genetic modification strategies in Rhizobia to combat abiotic stress in legumes" for the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" is an original research work accomplished under the supervision of Prof. Pushpa Robin, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara-390002, Gujarat, India.

I also declare that the contents of the thesis have not been previously produced in any form for the award of any degree, diploma, and fellowship, associateship of any other similar title or recognition.

Date: 0 8 05 2023 **Place: Vadodara**

2023

Mr. Dave Akash Ashok (Ph.D. candidate)